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### ***Kernan Announces Recycled Product Purchasing Grant for Bloomington's Public Works Department***

INDIANAPOLIS — Bloomington residents and city employees will soon have practical examples of recycled-content products to wear and use – thanks in part to a grant from the Indiana Department of Commerce,

Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced today that Commerce's Energy Policy Division has awarded the city of Bloomington a \$5,000 Recycled Product Purchasing Grant to buy recycled-content recycling bins, reflective safety vests and tee shirts.

The new recycling bins will be distributed to residents for the city's curbside recycling program. The safety vests and shirts will be used by crossing guards, street and traffic department employees, police and traffic safety workers as well as refuse and recycling crews.

"This is a great example of putting recyclables to use in an innovative way," said Kernan, who serves as director of the Indiana Department of Commerce. "Bloomington's commitment to using recyclables creatively and to educating residents about recyclable products is outstanding. We salute the community and are proud to play a role in the project."

The products will be tested as replacements for similar non-recycled-content items that are currently used. City officials hope the products will help educate residents on the practicality, importance and reliability of buying recycled-content products.

Recycled Product Purchasing Grants promote the purchase of recycled-content products in Indiana. The grants are available for trial or demonstration projects by local government entities throughout the state, including public schools, solid waste management districts, and county, city or town governments. Grants of up to \$5,000 are available per applicant, not to exceed 50 percent of eligible project costs.

The Indiana Recycling Energy Development Board, which meets quarterly, reviews grant proposals and determines awards. The Energy Policy Division of the Indiana Department of Commerce administers the program. For more information on the Energy Policy Division's recycling programs, please contact Tiffany Sorge at 317.232.8940 or visit <http://www.commercerecycles.in.gov/>.

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